In the Claims

16(Original). A system for converting data from one or more systems into a hierarchical data scheme, comprising:

a)   a user-defined document definition file, which is identified by a unique name and defines a list of parameters, and is a hierarchically organized set of elements, each element comprising an element type, a text value, a list of attributes and a list of child elements; and

b)   a module that accepts a request from a requesting system, the request including the unique name of a document definition file and a parameter name with corresponding value; upon receiving the request, the module reads the document definition file, visits each element and replaces a reference to a parameter, element or attribute with an actual value; and returns a data file to the requesting system.

17(Original). The system of claim 16 wherein a format of the document definition file may be an Extensible Markup Language (XML), a Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), or their variants.

18(Original). The system of claim 17, wherein the element contains a command.

19(Original). The system of claim 18, wherein the command includes a substitutable parameter.

20(Original). The system of claim 19, further including a graphical tree based environment.

21(Original). The system of claim 20, wherein the graphical tree based environment executes a portion of the document definition file.

22(Original). The system of claim 21 wherein the element specifies an operation executed by a software program.

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23(Original). The system of claim 22 wherein the reference is replaced by a value prior to the execution of any operation.

24(Original). The system of claim 23 wherein the operation changes a hierarchy of the document definition file.

25(Original). The system of claim 24, wherein the operation is conditional.

26(Original). The system of claim 24 further including a display module capable of displaying the data file.

27(Original). The system of claim 26 wherein an element defines a join operation.

28(Original). The system of claim 27 wherein the conditional operation determines a path of execution through the document definition file.

29(Original). A system for converting data into a hierarchical data scheme, comprising:

a hierarchical data server coupled to a client and coupled to a server; and
a document definition file capable of being processed by the hierarchical data server.

30(Original). The system of claim 29, further including a data document authoring system coupled to the hierarchical data server.

31(Original). The system of claim 29, wherein the document definition file has a unique name and is a hierarchically organized plurality of elements.

32(Original). The system of claim 31, wherein the hierarchically organized plurality of elements comprises an element type, an element value, and a list of child elements.

33(Original). The system of claim 31, wherein the document definition file has a list of attributes.

34(Original). A method of converting data into a hierarchical data scheme, comprising the steps:

a) receiving a request from a client at a hierarchical data server for a plurality of data from an enterprise system;

b) executing a document definition file associated with the request at the hierarchical data server; and

c) returning a data file to the client.

35(Original). The method of claim 34, wherein step (a) further includes the steps of:

a1) receiving a unique name identifying the document definition file;

a2) receiving a parameter.

36(Original). The method of claim 34, wherein step (b) further includes the steps of:

b1) copying a parameter into a reference element of the document definition file;

b2) processing each of a plurality of elements in the document definition file.

37(Original). The method of claim 36, wherein step (b2) further includes the steps of;

       i) substituting an actual value for a referenced element component;

       ii) performing an operation.

38(Original). The method of claim 34, wherein step (b) further includes the steps of:

       b1) defining a document definition file using a graphical tree-based visual environment.